

Follow-up for Chronic Illness Measures Workgroup

Staff was asked to assess the feasibility of measurement of Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Dependence Treatment (IET) (NQF 0004).

NQF#0004: The percentage of adolescent and adult patients with a new episode of alcohol or other drug (AOD) dependence who received the following. - Initiation of AOD Treatment: Percentage of patients who initiate treatment through an inpatient AOD admission, outpatient visit, intensive outpatient encounter or partial hospitalization within 14 days of the diagnosis - Engagement of AOD Treatment: Percentage of patients who initiated treatment and who had two or more additional services with a diagnosis of AOD within 30 days of the initiation visit.

We looked at this for Medicaid and PEBB (as a proxy for those who are commercially insured). According to those “in the know” in DSHS Research and Data Analysis, the Adult Core Measures are being prioritized by DSHS staff according to feasibility and ease of implementation. This measure is at the bottom of the list – it is especially complicated because of the requirement for looking for “newly diagnosed” and that most would not show up as “new” to the condition of CD. We also concluded that PEBB would additionally run up against this not being data that is collected centrally.